

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

Parish News

August 25, 2023

Upcoming Events

The *Jumpin' Jehosaafats*, is coming to play in Ely again, in Whiteside Park, on Monday August 25, at 5:00 p.m. Food Trucks will be there. They are inviting free-will donations to support the Ely Folk School, and the concert will be held there in case of inclement weather.

Suzanne Mades, one of our former pastors and a flute player in the band will be honored.

I received a several page newsprint section in last week's Ely Echo from the Ely School district, that includes oodles of information about the upcoming school year, including a 9 month calendar.

While **our church** is also shifting from summer-mode to autumn-mode, there aren't nearly as many changes.

I do want to highlight one item for now, however. There will be a few others as well.

As mentioned on Page Two, the *Journey with the Messiah* study, which will begin September 26 and run for six consecutive Tuesday evenings. Our vision team is prayerfully and thoughtfully work to plan this study in a way that makes Jesus come alive for you.

A Note from Pastor Craig

It's been three years since the intense 2020 summer of the pandemic, which means April/May 2020 (the most harrowing time following the arrival of Covid-19) is even more distant in time.

I find it nearly impossible to "put myself back" into those days of near-total isolation in our homes, the news reports of overflowing Emergency Rooms and hospitals, and horrifying death tolls. This many-headed monster was unfolding in ways we never imagined and there was no-one who could give us a picture with any certainty of when and how things would return to "normal," if ever.

But we did make it. Many of us lost people we knew to the virus. Others were on the front lines assisting the rest of us to navigate the worst of things so we would be able to safely stay at home.

Churches, individuals, schools, businesses, governmental agencies, the medical community, well everyone, adapted by finding new ways to get things done. Technology played a part, as did good old-fashioned ingenuity, and digging deeply within ourselves.

Our church began streaming worship services, used Zoom for meetings and Bible Studies, and began sending out Parish News.

Now as the pandemic is easing into an endemic, where infections are still around but less deadly, we are able to return (mostly) to normal, while continuing to stream services.

This week I came across an eye-opening article that examines technology and the manner it affects churches and our personal faith. The analysis is surprising in how it assesses the far-reaching ways Christian faith and our experience of God and each other is subtly changed by technology. I'll mention this more in weeks to come. It's great to be back in Ely after a marvelous vacation. Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

August 25, 2023

This is a guide for prayer this week. The *Prayer Wall* is a reminder of those needing prayers during devotional times. Thank you for dedicating some of your personal prayer time to lift up these requests.

Psalm 5: 3 (NIV)



"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Wanda Ladwig** – Linda Hane asked for prayers for her sister-in-law, Wanda Ladwig, who is hospitalized for pneumonia and is very weak, but slowly gaining strength. She is Bill Hane's eldest sister.
- **Joe Oxley** – Shelly Oxley asked for prayers for her husband, Joe, as he undergoes more medical testing.
- **Lauren Olson** – Margie Olson asked for prayers for their granddaughter, Lauren Olson, who has been hospitalized with severe tonsillitis.
- **Donna Rusco** – Donna fell last week and is dealing with some pain. Please pray for healing.
- **Newt Nickerson** – Newt had back surgery on Friday, August 11th. Pray for his full recovery.
- **Judy Bonderson** – Judy fell and was taken to the ER. Please pray for her well being.
- **Keith Trembath** – **Update: Keith is doing well after his surgery.** Linda Hane has asked for prayers for her friend Keith who had triple bypass heart surgery on Monday, August 7th at St. Mary's.
- **Kelsie & Jake Luangrath's family & friends** – Heidi Hansen requested prayers for her significant other's daughter who lost her baby, Jaymeson Jacob Luangrath, two weeks before he should have been born. He passed away in her womb. Pray for his parents Kelsie & Jake & his two siblings Chayce and Blayke & family.
- **Patty Niskala** – **Update: Jer thanked all for their prayers for his wife, Patty, who is now at home, but still needs prayers for continued recovery.** Patty received a liver transplant and was in the hospital for three weeks before moving to an apartment close to the hospital for a month of monitoring & recovery.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict** – Pray for a world-wide lasting resolution, safety of the people, and peace.

We include all the United Methodist Churches and Pastors, both active and retired, in our MN UMC Annual Conference as we work in extraordinary ways to keep our congregations and communities free from infection by the COVID-19 virus.

Prayer requests are compiled from our church prayer chain, from our Sunday morning church congregation using the prayer request forms located in the pew welcome pads, and the North Star District Prayer List. Prayer requests will remain on the Prayer Wall through four weeks unless removed earlier because the prayer is known to be no longer necessary. People may ask that prayers be renewed on the list for subsequent 4-week periods. The Prayer Wall is finalized each Thursday for the Sunday morning service.

Opportunity to Grow in Faith

The Visioning Committee is asking for church members to join our leadership team in hosting study sessions of *A Journey with The Messiah*. The study group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm for 6 consecutive weeks beginning on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Team leaders may assist in leading one or more of the study sessions. Each study session will be scheduled for an hour in length and may last a bit longer depending on the group. Team leaders hosting a study session will help present the picture and video presentations and initiate discussions of the content. The mission of the study is to explore and uncover how Jesus' teachings and scripture relate to specific situations in today's world.

A bit out of your comfort zone? The Visioning Committee will support you and answer any questions you have. Also, this kind of participation is one of the best ways to grow in our faith.

Interested? You can find more information at <https://journeyswiththemessiah.com/>



Lizzbeth Pamela Lux Bamac - The *Children's International* Child We Support

Our church has provided support for Lizzbeth for a number of years. We recently received her latest picture. It's on the left side just above this text, with her two previous pictures next to it, left to right.

Lizzbeth lives with Marta Veronica (her mother), Tomas Beltran (her father), and two siblings in Guatemala City, Guatemala. She and her family appreciate the support we provide because the unemployment rate is high, making it a struggle to find steady work. Typical positions are daily workers, bricklayers, and maids.

While Lizzbeth's family's incomes varies, they usually average about \$260 a month.

Lizzbeth's favorite subjects are dance, art, and math. For fun, Lizzbeth spends her free time exercising, playing with siblings, and playing soccer. She also loves dancing.